



## Water Resources Division's Aquatic Invasive Species of the Week!

FOR THE WEEK OF:

July 15-21, 2013

Carolina Fanwort

*Cabomba caroliniana*

**Origin:** Native to sub-tropic regions of South America, also common in the southeastern U.S.

**Also known as:** Fanwort, Cabomba

**Current Distribution:** Reports in Southern Michigan. Particularly, east and west of US Highway 131 from Big Rapids to Kalamazoo. Also recent reports between Detroit and Flint.

**Means of Introduction:** Introduced as a popular aquarium plant. However, it is on Michigan's Prohibited Species List.

**Habitat:** Grows in three to ten feet of water in ponds, lakes, and slow streams.

**Description:** Rooted submersed plant. Stems are long and multi-branched. Two types of leaves: Submergent (under water) are fan-like, opposite, and finely dissected. Floating leaves are alternate, small, and infrequent. Flowers are small and white with 3 petals and 3 sepals (looks like 6 pedals).

**Impacts:** Carolina fanwort is an extremely competitive plant. It can form dense stands, outcompeting native species. It can also impede recreational activities such as boating and fishing.

For further information, including specific distribution, on Carolina fanwort, please visit the Midwest Invasive Species Information Network at: [www.misin.msu.edu](http://www.misin.msu.edu)



Photo: Les Mehrhoff



Carolina fanwort (foreground) infesting a Michigan lake. Photo: Jane Herbert.



Up close image of Carolina fanwort flower.  
Photo: Les Mehrhoff